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FM FRIS KADUNA

TO RUDDRA/FRIS LONDON

RUDMLA/FRIS CAVERSHAM/DW

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FROM PORTUGAL PRESS SHANK N201045 20 NOV 74

BT

UNSEAS-LW BBC LD ATTN [REDACTED]

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COPY TO FCS, LIATSON

PORUGUESE NEWS AGENCY ORDERED TO CLOSE DOWN

N201045 LONDON REUTER IN ENGLISH 1228 GMT 20 NOV 74 N

((TEXT)) LISBON, NOV 19, REUTER -- THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT TODAY ORDERED THE PORTUGUESE NEWS AGENCY LUSITANIA TO CLOSE DOWN IMMEDIATELY, ON THE GROUNDS THAT ITS CONTINUED EXISTENCE COULD JEOPARDISE THE DECOLONISATION OF PORTUGAL'S OVERSEAS TERRITORIES.

AN ORDER SIGNED BY MAJOR VITOR ALVES, THE MINISTER WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PRESS, SAID THE CONCEPT OF COLONIALISM WHICH INSPIRED THE AGENCY'S FOUNDATION IN FORTYFOUR 1944 HAD BEEN DISPELLED FROM THE NATIONAL CONSCIENCE.

AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES IN MOZAMBIQUE

ITS ACTIVITIES IMMEDIATELY, THE ORDER SAID.

LUSITANIA DISTRIBUTED NEWS IN PORTUGAL ABOUT THE COUNTRY'S OVERSEAS TERRITORIES; IT WAS FOUNDED BY ORDER OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER MARCELLO CAETANO, THEN MINISTER FOR THE COLONIES AND NOW LIVING IN EXILE AFTER BEING OUSTED IN LAST APRIL'S COUP.

WITH PORTUGAL SET ON DECOLONISING ITS OVERSEAS TERRITORIES, THE CLOSURE OF LUSITANIA HAD BEEN GENERALLY EXPECTED IN RECENT WEEKS. ITS DIRECTOR, SENHOR LUIS LUPI, LEFT FOR SPAIN AFTER THE APRIL COUP.

EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE GOVERNMENT NATIONALISED THE OTHER PORTUGUESE NEWS AGENCY, A.N.T. (NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY).

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